

PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATION NO. 04-49

Declaring 14 June 2004 as Palau Conservation Day

WHEREAS, from the northernmost point of Ngeruangel Reef, thence east to the northernmost point of Kayangel Islands and around the island to its easternmost point, south to the easternmost point of the Babeldaob barrier reef, south to the easternmost point of Helen's Reef, west from the southernmost point of Helen's Reef to the easternmost point of Hatohobei Island and around the island to the westernmost point, north to the westernmost point of Fana Island, and north to the westernmost point of Ngeruangel Reef and then around the reef to the point of origin lie over 500 majestic islands over a vast and pristine ocean, together known as Palau; and

WHEREAS, amongst these Palauan islands and the oceans that surround them lie the largest undisturbed forest in Micronesia containing nearly 200 endemic species of plants, birds and insects; the largest and only natural freshwater lake in Micronesia, the home to saltwater crocodiles, more than 400 species of hard corals, more than 300 species of soft corals, more than 1,400 species of reef fish, seven of the world's nine species of giant clam, the world's most isolated population of dugong; and within its sixty marine lakes numerous non-stinging species of jellyfish; and

WHEREAS, we Palauans find ourselves increasingly isolated and vulnerable to the impacts of globalization, most notably the adverse impacts of climate change, while also facing the environmental impacts of domestic economic growth; and

WHEREAS, in recognizing that our economic, social and cultural growth is dependent on sustainable management of our natural heritage, the environment of Palau must be preserved and protected to sustain us today and in the future; and

WHEREAS, our ancestors knew how to sustainably manage their resources in less complex times, for thousands of years successfully sustaining their way of life; and

WHEREAS, as guardians of our natural wealth today, we must recognize that sustainable management of resources is also required in this modern world and must be balanced with our movement towards economic development, and therefore requires a unification of traditional practices and modern conservation techniques; and

WHEREAS, The Palau Conservation Society (PCS), an NGO established in 1994, representing civil society and focused on protecting Palau's environment, has worked with local communities and local businesses to plan activities and events for Palau's first 'Palau Conservation Day';

NOW, THEREFORE, in recognizing of the importance of protecting Palau's natural environment, and in honor of the vital role that local communities play in conserving our natural resources for today and the future generations, I, Tommy E. Remengesau, Jr., President of the

Republic of Palau, do hereby proclaim 14 June 2004 as '*PALAU CONSERVATION DAY*'. In doing so, I call on all Palauans to participate in the local activities and events that have been organized by the Palau Conservation Society (PCS), in conjunction with local communities, government agencies and local businesses.

SO PROCLAIMED this 9th day of June 2004, at Koror State, Republic of Palau.

/s/

Tommy E. Remengesau, Jr.
President of the Republic of Palau